

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Gruber, *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/076,115

Filed: May 12, 1998

For: **METHODS FOR PRODUCTION AND
PURIFICATION OF NUCLEIC ACID
MOLECULES**

Confirmation No. 4470

Art Unit: 1637

Examiner: Tung, Joyce

Atty. Docket: 0942.4350001/RWE/B.C

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Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The numbering on this Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is a continuation of the numbering in Applicants' First, Second and Third Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 10, 1999, April 19, 1999 and March 12, 2001, in connection with the above-captioned application. A copy of each document is provided.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist.

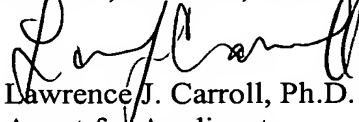
This Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and before the mailing date of a Final Rejection. Attached is our Credit Card Payment Form PTO-2038 in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


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Date: February 24, 2003

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